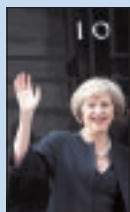


Prime Minister's Diary



Here is what Maidenhead & Twyford MP **Theresa May** has been up to in Parliament:

AFTER a week shoring up the home front, new Prime Minister Theresa May was off to the front line with a quickfire European tour as she took her first steps towards Brexit.

Thursday saw her jetting off to Berlin to see Angela Merkel, with the pair apparently enjoying a constructive meeting.

The German Chancellor gave some reassuring signals for Brexit negotiations, saying Article 50 should only be invoked when the UK had a 'very well-defined negotiating position'.

This was followed on Friday with a trip to Paris for first talks with Francois Hollande, with many expecting a considerably frostier reception.

However, Mrs May seemed to leave with a small victory as the French President agreed that British border controls should remain in Calais – although he took a tougher stance on access to the single market post-Brexit.

After a weekend which saw Mrs May take in the sights and sounds of Maidenhead Festival (pictured below with Ben Jones, 10), it was back on the road as she visited Northern Ireland on Monday to round off her tour of the UK.

After making assurances there would be no return to full border controls with the Republic it was back to London, where she met Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny on Tuesday when she said there was a 'strong will' to retain freedom of movement between the two countries.

■ See P21-26 for more on Mrs May's visit to Maidenhead Festival.



Volunteers get stuck in to help waterways

ALTHOUGH completing the immediate project remains the focus for the team behind the waterways, serious consideration is already being given to how best to keep it in working order once it's completed.

As well as keeping embankments in the town centre looking pristine, work will also be needed further upstream to ensure water can keep flowing through the whole of the system.

With this in mind, volunteer teams have already been out working on channel clearances.

On Monday, July 3, a team from tech giant Adobe, which has an office in Maidenhead, was out at Ray Mill Road West to tackle a fallen tree.

The group of about 16 volunteers donned waders and took up hand saws to cut back the obstruction.

Kim Kerry-Tyerman, organiser of the Adobe group, said: "Our Maidenhead team had a great time teaming up, working in the stream and getting to know other volunteers in our community."

"We'd like to thank Maidenhead Waterways for their leadership and the opportunity to do our part."

Visit www.maidenheadwaterways.org to find out more about getting involved.

Waterways project is



EAGLE EYE: The section running north from Saint Cloud Way is set to be finished in October. Ref:126179-3

Timeline for the first phase of bringing back the water

THE PLANNING permission granted for the waterways in 2012 covers the first phase of the project.

This is the town centre 'ring', made up of York Stream and Moor Cut, and is intended to restore Maidenhead's 'riverside setting' by clearing water courses, creating embankments and towpaths and allowing access for small boats.

The first and most high profile stage of this was the draining of York Stream to allow enlargement and other improvements to be made between the A4 and the Great Western Railway line.

This began in February last year with the installation of a temporary dam where York Stream and Moor Cut split near Blackamoor Lane to divert water down Moor Cut.

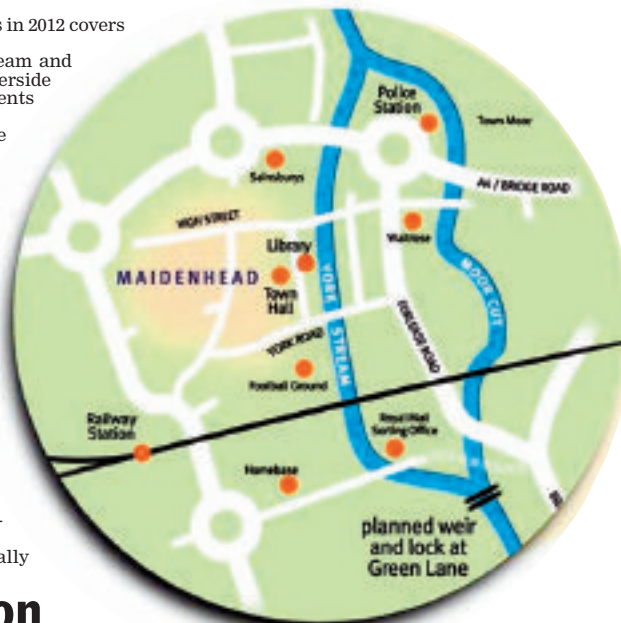
This dried out York Stream, allowing construction to begin.

The second stage will see work to York Stream carried out north of the A4 and south of the railway line where it meets Moor Cut. This would also involve the construction of a weir near Green Lane, which is hoped to be completed by the end of next year.

The third and final stage will see water diverted down York Stream once more, allowing clearances to Moor Cut.

Future phases of the project remain on paper until the completion of the first, with the sustainability of the venture as a whole emphasised by Maidenhead Waterways.

It is hoped, however, that future phases will eventually allow larger boats into the town centre.



The restoration project section by section

Section A

From near Blackamoor Lane, where York Stream and Moor Cut separate, as far as the Saint Cloud Way bridge. Expected to be finished in October.

Section B

From Saint Cloud Way bridge to the exit bridge of Hines Meadow car park, off Crown Lane. Also expected to be finished in October.

Section C

From the exit bridge of Hines Meadow car park to Maidenhead High Street. This section is being done by the Shanly Group and is dependent on the firm's construction schedule, which involves the demolition of the Colonnade.

Section D

The Basin. From the High Street to Maidenhead Library. Expected to be finished by the end of November.

Section E

From the library to York Road. Due to be fully excavated and lined by February 2017.

Section F

York Road to the railway line. Complete.

Section G and H

From the railway line to Green Lane. Work expected to start next month and finish by the end of March 2017.



IMPROVEMENTS: New footpaths being installed alongside Hines Meadow car park should be less prone to flooding than the old ones. Ref:126179-14

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